

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:BK

APPROVED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL

EA/RA:RWALKINSHAW (SUBSTANCE)

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P 172300Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 012161

TAGS: MASS VS

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO PRESS RELEASE ON U. S. AID TO SOUTH VIET-  
NAM

REF: STATE 009417

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF JANUARY 16 AFL-CIO PRESS RELEASE  
WHICH YOU MAY WISH TO PASS TO GVN AND CVT OFFICIALS AS  
WELL AS TO LOCAL MEDIA.

BEGIN TEXT:

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY TODAY SAID THAT A UNITED  
STATES REFUSAL TO EXTEND FURTHER AMERICAN AID TO SOUTH  
VIETNAM "WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STOP THE FIGHTING BUT MOST  
CERTAINLY NOT STOP THE KILLING."

MEANY'S STATEMENT CAME IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD, CON-  
GRESSIONAL LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES AND KEY MEMBERS OF THE  
ARMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATIONS COMMITTEES OF  
BOTH HOUSES. MEANY INCLUDED IN HIS LETTER, DATED  
JANUARY 10 AND MADE PUBLIC TODAY, A CABLE HE HAD RECEIVED  
FROM TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE CONFED-  
ERATION OF LABOR (CVT).

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BUU CABLED MEANY THAT TWO CVT PROVINCE LEADERS "AND

THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF OUR RUBBER PLANTATION WORKERS UNION, ALL CIVILIANS, (WERE) SLAUGHTERED BY COMMUNISTS, WHO WERE BACKED BY RUSSIAN TANKS, ARTILLERY AND LIMITLESS AMMUNITION" DURING THE FALL OF PHUOC BINH.

BUU SAID THAT IF THE "COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE (THE) COUNTRY...THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANTICOMMUNISTS TO GO IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT TO (A) FIRING SQUAD."

TEXT OF MEANY'S LETTER FOLLOWS:

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED THIS MORNING FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM'S FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, MR. TRAN QUOC BUU:

"DEAR PRESIDENT MEANY:

"SOUTH VIETNAM'S FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS TAKEN ANOTHER HARD BLOW. PHUOC BINH'S FALL AND RESULTING COMMUNIST CAPTURE OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IS DISAPPOINTING MILITARY SETBACK AND ANOTHER FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT.

"MORE IMPORTANT THAN A MILITARY LOSS FOR WE LOST TWO MORE CVT PROVINCE LEADERS AND THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF OUR RUBBER PLANTATION WORKERS UNION, ALL CIVILIANS, SLAUGHTERED BY COMMUNISTS WHO WERE BACKED BY RUSSIAN TANKS, ARTILLERY AND LIMITLESS AMMUNITION. I ASK YOU TO KINDLY TELL YOUR COUNTRYMEN THAT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS CANNOT HOPE TO HOLD BACK THE BLOODTHIRSTY COMMUNIST HORDE. CVT WILL BE FIRST CASUALTY IF COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE COUNTRY. THIS WILL BE OUR DESTINY BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF 1954 WHEN ALL UNION BROTHERS IN THE NORTH WERE JAILED OR DISAPPEARED AFTER COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. WE CANNOT ESCAPE TO THE SOUTH AS IN 1954. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANTI-COMMUNISTS TO GO IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT TO FIRING SQUAD. PLEASE TELL YOUR PEOPLE THAT OUR ONLY HOPE IS FOR

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE US THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR WITHOUT IT THE WORLD COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY WILL ADD ONE MORE SATELLITE TO ITS ORBIT. TRAN QUOC BUU"

I AM SENDING THIS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AS, WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS, A RESPONSIBLE LEADER IN THE CONGRESS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE REFUSAL TO EXTEND FURTHER AMERICAN AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD CERTAINLY BRING AN END TO THE

FIGHTING AND THE KILLING.

IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE WIRE FROM THE LEADER OF THE SOUTH

VIETNAM FREE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT SUCH REFUSAL WOULD UN-  
DOUBTEDLY STOP THE FIGHTING BUT MOST CERTAINLY NOT STOP  
THE KILLING.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE012161  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RHWENZEL:BK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750019-0694  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750141/aaaabjtz.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 009417  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AFL-CIO PRESS RELEASE ON U. S. AID TO SOUTH VIET- NAM  
**TAGS:** MASS, VS, US, AFL-CIO, CVT, (FORD, GERALD R), (TRAN QUOC BUU), (MEANY, GEORGE)  
**To:** SAIGON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006